

LONDON BOROUGH OF MERTON	
	<u>NOTES OF MEETING</u>
	Subject: Morden Community Forum
	Date: 20th March 2014 Time: 19.15
Action Needed By:	
	<p>1. <u>Welcome and Introductions</u></p> <p>1.1 Cllr. Groves (MG) welcomed all to the meeting.</p> <p>1.2 Approximately 13 residents attended, as well as Merton Councillors, Police Sargeant Phil Webb, Stephen Byfield from PPS Group and officers from the council and its partners.</p>
	<p>2. <u>Police Update</u></p> <p>2.1 Sargeant Phil Webb from Cannon Hill and Lower Morden ward informed the forum that on the whole crime levels have fallen in Morden compared to the same time last year and are continuing to steadily fall since the changes in the way Safer Neighbourhood teams work.</p> <p>2.2 The police will not be involved in the investigation into whistleblowing at Merton Council unless it is determined at some point that there is a need for a criminal investigation.</p>
SG	<p>3. <u>Merton Memories</u></p> <p>3.1 Sarah Gould (SG), the Library Service Manager at Merton Council, presented on the launch of the Merton Memories project.</p> <p>3.2 SG agreed to look into obtaining a copy of the Merton Charter for a local resident.</p> <p>3.3 It was explained that a raft of publicity had gone out to make people aware of the launch of Merton Memories, including notifying schools, places of worship, residents' and tenants' associations, Age Concern, Garden Centres, Radio Jackie, Time Out, Youth Centres, the local Guardian and putting something on the council's website.</p> <p>3.4 Asked if it would be possible to support local artists by putting on an exhibition, SG explained that exhibitions have been put on before and there will also be artistic themes on the website. Future work will be undertaken with local artists.</p>

	<p>4. <u>Leisure for Morden</u></p> <p>4.1 Stephen Byfield (SB) from PPS Group gave a presentation on plans to provide new leisure facilities in Morden and encouraged residents to get involved in the consultation on said plans http://prezi.com/b3j6spynnrcx/leisure-for-morden/?utm_campaign=share&utm_medium=copy</p> <p>4.2 The consultation on the plans asks for feedback on three questions: should the local authority follow the Sport England model for leisure developments?; what else should be added to the model (pick from a list of options)?; and would you like to see anything else included in the plans (that is not on the list provided)?</p> <p>4.3 SB explained that the £8.4m cost of the Sport England model was a cost worked out by Sport England and assumed that it therefore includes a contingency.</p> <p>4.4 The Community Trust's proposals for Morden Park are not included in the consultation on new leisure facilities but council officers are aware of the Trust's plans and are happy to talk to the Trust about future development.</p>
	<p>5. <u>Alley gates scheme</u></p> <p>5.1 Apologies were received on behalf of the council officer due to speak on the alley gates scheme. Leaflets on the scheme were handed out to residents to provide them with further information.</p>
JA	<p>6. <u>Merton's Mega Recycle Challenge</u></p> <p>6.1 Jane Alexander (JA) from the council explained that the council is introducing an incentive scheme, funded by the DCLG, to try to increase recycling rates in the borough by 3.5% in the next two years (the current recycling rate is 39%). A campaign was launched on 24 March which involves cash prizes for individuals, estates, flats and schools that recycle. A door-stepping campaign from 22 April will encourage people to recycle, take requests for new recycling boxes and answer questions on recycling.</p> <p>6.2 The scheme will work with secondary schools and Wimbledon College of Art further down the line and there will be cash prizes to encourage schools to recycle.</p> <p>6.3 JA agreed to look into whether litter collected from public bins is recycled.</p>
	<p>7. <u>Topics for Scrutiny</u></p> <p>7.1 Stella Akintan (SA) from the council's Scrutiny team provided an overview on the work that the team and its four scrutiny panels</p>

	<p>does. She invited residents to put forward topics for the scrutiny panels to look at in the coming year, emphasising that the topics should be issues affecting people across the board, not individual problems. Previous topics have included activities for the over-55s, climate change and whether the Government's Green Deal is suitable for Merton, and the provision of youth centres in the borough.</p> <p>7.2 The council has a rigorous process and standards that are used to mark potential scrutiny topics against and to decide whether a topic is relevant for the scrutiny panels to consider.</p> <p>7.3 Asked why the Scrutiny team and its panels had not looked into the whistleblowing incident at Merton, SA explained that the Overview an Scrutiny Panel would not be able to look into the subject until reports on it have been released.</p>
Councillor Groves	<p>8. <u>Soapbox</u></p> <p>9.1 A resident complained about rubbish that is collecting at a specific house on London Road and is therefore attracting rats. Councillor Groves agreed to pass on the details of the house to Environmental Services and advised the resident to speak to their ward councillor about visiting the house.</p> <p>9.2 A resident voiced concern about the masonry above Morden Post Office being unsafe.</p> <p>9.3 A local resident expressed concern about Clause 119 which has ben introduced by Parliament and allows MPs to make changes to laws. The resident was concerned about how this clause might affect the future of St Helier Hospital.</p> <p>9.4 Councillor Maxi Martin thanked Councillor Groves for being an excellent chair of the forum over recent years.</p>

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